

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

36. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor microvalve comprising:
a semiconductor substrate;
a flexible [[area]] member isolated from said semiconductor substrate and displaced in response to temperature change;
a thermal isolation [[area]] member placed between said semiconductor substrate and said flexible [[area]] member and made of a resin for joining said semiconductor substrate and said flexible [[area]] member; and
a moving element placed contiguous with the flexible [[area]] member, said moving element being displaced relative to the semiconductor substrate when temperature of the flexible [[area]] member changes; [[and]]
a fluid element being joined to said semiconductor device and having a flow passage with a flowing fluid quantity changing in response to displacement of the moving element, and

wherein portions of said semiconductor substrate and said flexible member in contact with said thermal isolation member form comb teeth.

37. (Previously Presented) The semiconductor microvalve as claimed in claim 36, wherein said semiconductor device and said fluid element are joined via a spacer layer.

38. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 36, wherein the material of which said thermal isolation [[area]] member is made has a thermal conductivity coefficient of about 0.4 W/(m °C) or less.

39. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 36, wherein the material of which said thermal isolation [[area]] member is made is polyimide.

40. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 36, wherein the material of which said thermal isolation [[area]] member is made is a fluoridated resin.

41. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 36, wherein a reinforcement layer made of a harder material than the material of which said thermal isolation [[area]] member is made is provided on at least one face orthogonal to a thickness direction of said thermal isolation [[area]] member.

42. (Previously Presented) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 41, wherein the reinforcement layer has a Young's modulus of 9.8×10^9 N/m² or more.

43. (Previously Presented) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 41, wherein the reinforcement layer is a silicon dioxide thin film.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 36, wherein the flexible [[area]] member has a cantilever structure.

46. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 36, wherein said moving element is supported by a plurality of flexible [[areas]] members.

47. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 46, wherein the flexible [[areas]] members are in the shape of a cross with said moving element at the center.

48. (Previously Presented) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 46, wherein displacement of said moving element includes displacement rotating in a horizontal direction to a substrate face of the semiconductor substrate.

49. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 46, wherein the flexible [[areas]] members are four flexible [[areas]] members each shaped in L, the four flexible [[areas]] members being placed at equal intervals in every direction with said moving element at the center.

50. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 36, wherein the flexible [[area]] member is made up of at least two [[areas]] members having different thermal expansion coefficients and is displaced in response to a difference between the thermal expansion coefficients.

51. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 50, wherein the flexible [[area]] member includes an [[area]] member made of silicon and an [[area]] member made of aluminum.

52. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 50, wherein the flexible [[area]] member includes an [[area]] member made of silicon and an [[area]] member made of nickel.

53. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 50, wherein at least one of the [[areas]] members making up the flexible [[area]] member is made of the same material as the thermal isolation [[area]] member.

54. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 53, wherein the flexible [[area]] member includes an [[area]] member made of silicon and an [[area]] member made of polyimide as the [[area]] member made of the same material as the thermal isolation [[area]] member.

55. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 53, wherein the flexible [[area]] member includes an [[area]] member made of silicon and an [[area]] member made of a fluoridated resin as the [[area]] member made of the same material as the thermal isolation [[area]] member.

56. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 36, wherein the flexible [[area]] member is made of a shape memory alloy.

57. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 36, wherein a thermal isolation [[area]] member made of a resin for joining the flexible [[area]] member and said moving element is provided between the flexible [[area]] member and said moving element.

58. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 57, wherein rigidity of the thermal isolation [[area]] member provided between the semiconductor substrate and the flexible [[area]] member is made different from that of the thermal isolation [[area]] member provided between the flexible [[area]] member and said moving element.

59. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 36, wherein the flexible [[area]] member contains a heater for heating the flexible [[area]] member.

60. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 59 further comprising:

wiring for supplying power to the heater for heating the flexible [[area]] member is formed without the intervention of the thermal isolation [[area]] member.

61. (Withdrawn) A semiconductor microrelay comprising:
a semiconductor substrate;
a flexible area isolated from said semiconductor substrate and displaced in response to temperature change;
a thermal isolation area placed between said semiconductor substrate and said flexible area and made of a resin for joining said semiconductor substrate and said flexible area; and

a moving element placed contiguous with the flexible area, said moving element being displaced relative to the semiconductor substrate when temperature of the flexible area changes; and

a fixed element joined to said semiconductor device and having fixed contacts being placed at positions corresponding to a moving contact provided on the moving element, the fixed contacts being able to come in contact with the moving contact.

62. (Withdrawn) The semiconductor microrelay as claimed in claim 61, wherein the fixed contacts are placed away from each other and come in contact with the moving contact, whereby they are brought into conduction via the moving contact.

63. (Withdrawn) The semiconductor microrelay as claimed in claim 61, wherein said semiconductor device and said fixed element are joined via a spacer layer.

64. (Withdrawn) A manufacturing method for a semiconductor device including a semiconductor substrate; a flexible area isolated from said semiconductor substrate and displaced in response to temperature change; a thermal isolation area placed between said semiconductor substrate and said flexible area and made of a resin for joining said semiconductor substrate and said flexible area; and a moving element placed contiguous with the flexible area, said moving element being displaced relative to the semiconductor substrate when temperature of the flexible area changes; wherein at least one of the areas making up the flexible area is made of the same material as the thermal isolation area; and the flexible area is made up of at least two areas having different thermal expansion

coefficients and is displaced in response to a difference between the thermal expansion coefficients, said manufacturing method comprising the steps of:

etching and removing one face of the semiconductor substrate to form a bottom face part as one area forming a part of the flexible area;

etching and removing the other face of the semiconductor substrate to form the concave part in the moving element;

etching and removing the other face of the semiconductor substrate to form at least a portion which becomes the thermal isolation area placed between the semiconductor substrate and the flexible area;

filling the portion which becomes the thermal isolation area with a thermal isolation material to form the thermal isolation area; and

applying a coat of the thermal isolation material to the one face of the semiconductor substrate to form one area forming a part of the flexible area.

65. (Withdrawn) A manufacturing method for a semiconductor device including a semiconductor substrate; a flexible area isolated from said semiconductor substrate and displaced in response to temperature change; a thermal isolation area placed between said semiconductor substrate and said flexible area and made of a resin for joining said semiconductor substrate and said flexible area; and a moving element placed contiguous with the flexible area, said moving element being displaced relative to the semiconductor substrate when temperature of the flexible area changes; wherein the flexible area is made up of at least two areas having different thermal expansion coefficients and is

displaced in response to a difference between the thermal expansion coefficients, and the flexible area includes an area made of silicon and an area made of aluminum, said manufacturing method comprising the steps of:

etching and removing one face of the semiconductor substrate to form a bottom face part as one area forming a part of the flexible area;

etching and removing the other face of the semiconductor substrate to form the concave part in the moving element;

etching and removing the other face of the semiconductor substrate to form at least a portion which becomes the thermal isolation area placed between the semiconductor substrate and the flexible area;

forming an aluminum thin film as an area defined in the flexible area on the other face of the semiconductor substrate and a wire for applying an electric power to the heating means;

filling the portion which becomes the thermal isolation area with a thermal isolation material to form the thermal isolation area.

66. (Withdrawn) A manufacturing method for a semiconductor device including a semiconductor substrate; a flexible area isolated from said semiconductor substrate and displaced in response to temperature change; a thermal isolation area placed between said semiconductor substrate and said flexible area and made of a resin for joining said semiconductor substrate and said flexible area; and a moving element placed contiguous with the flexible area, said moving element being displaced relative to the semiconductor

substrate when temperature of the flexible area changes; wherein the flexible area is made up of at least two areas having different thermal expansion coefficients and is displaced in response to a difference between the thermal expansion coefficients, and the flexible area includes an area made of silicon and an area made of nickel, said manufacturing method comprising the steps of:

etching and removing one face of the semiconductor substrate to form a bottom face part as one area forming a part of the flexible area;

etching and removing the other face of the semiconductor substrate to form the concave part in the moving element;

etching and removing the other face of the semiconductor substrate to form at least a portion which becomes the thermal isolation area placed between the semiconductor substrate and the flexible area;

forming a wire for applying an electric power to the heating means;

filling the portion which becomes the thermal area with a thermal isolation material to form the thermal area; and

forming a nickel thin film as an area defined in the flexible area on the other face of the semiconductor substrate.

67. (Withdrawn) A manufacturing method for a semiconductor device including a semiconductor substrate; a flexible area isolated from said semiconductor substrate and displaced in response to temperature change; and a thermal isolation area placed between said semiconductor substrate and said flexible area and made of a resin for joining said

semiconductor substrate and said flexible area; said manufacturing method comprising the steps of:

etching and removing one face of the semiconductor substrate to form at least a portion which becomes the thermal isolation area placed between the semiconductor substrate and the flexible area;

filling the portion which becomes the thermal isolation area with a thermal isolation material to form the thermal isolation area; and

etching and removing the other face of the semiconductor substrate to form the thermal isolation area.

68. (Withdrawn) A manufacturing method for a semiconductor device including a semiconductor substrate; a flexible area isolated from said semiconductor substrate and displaced in response to temperature change; and a thermal isolation area placed between said semiconductor substrate and said flexible area and made of a resin for joining said semiconductor substrate and said flexible area; wherein a reinforcement layer made of a harder material than the material of which said thermal isolation area is made is provided on at least one face orthogonal to a thickness direction of said thermal isolation area, said manufacturing method comprising the steps of:

etching and removing one face of the semiconductor substrate to form at least a portion which becomes the thermal isolation area placed between the semiconductor substrate and the flexible area;

forming a reinforce layer in the thermal isolation area; filling the portion which becomes the thermal isolation area
with a thermal isolation material to form the thermal isolation area; and
etching and removing the other face of the semiconductor substrate to form the thermal isolation area.